NTC Mills

2202. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to refer Arati Cotton Mill and Central Cotton Mill of Howrah under N.T.C. to BIFR; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). The Arati Cotton Mill and Central Mill are under the NTC WBAB&O) Ltd. The NTC (WBAB&O) as a whole has been referred to and declared sick by the BIFR. The BIFR has issued notice for winding up the subsidiary. The case is scheduled to come up before the BIFR on 3.1.1997.

Disinvestment Commission

2203. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the core group of Secretaries referred 40 public sector units including Air India and Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) to disinvestment Commission;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has considered these cases at its meeting on 10 October, 1996;

(c) the total number of proposals received by the Commission so far;

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter;

(e) whether the target of Rs. 5,000 crore fixed by the Government for disinvestment during the previou year has been achieved; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The 40 PSUs are being analysed by the Commission, which has also been meeting various institutions and organisations. It proposes to make its recomendations after wider consideration with reference to individual PSU.

(e) and (f). The target for disinvestment fixed during the previous year, i.e. 1995-96 was Rs. 7000 crores, which could not be achieved due to unfavourable market conditions.

Amendment in the Criminal Procedure Code

2204. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :
SHRI I.D. SWAMI :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have asked the Law Commission to suggest recommendations about bringing amendments in the criminal procedure code to ensure speedy disposal of criminal cases pending in the courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the Commission is likely to submit its suggestions;

(c) whether the Government have also decided to bring certain amendments in the Advocates Act, 1961 so as to ensure that the law graduates coming out of Universities to be of professional excellence; and

(d) if so, the time by which these amendments are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Law Commission have submitted its 154th Report on the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Act. No. 2 of 1974) which is in the process of laying on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Smuggling of Cellular Phones

2205. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the rampant smuggling of cellular phones in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated loss to the exchequer as a result thereof;

(c) the modus operandi of the illegal importer/ smugglers of the cellular phones;

(d) the overall impact on the indigenous manufacturers of cellular phones; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling of cellular phones?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). Some cases of smuggling of cellular phones have come to the notice of Government. Smuggling is a clandestine activity and exact extent including smuggling of cellular phones cannot be estimated, hence the loss to exchequer by way of smuggling of cellular phones cannot be

estimated. Major modus operandi in smuggling of cellular phones have been concealment in baggage, misdeclaration and concealment in vehicles. Available reports indicate indigenous manufacture of cellular phone is yet to start actually. Field formations are alert to detect and prevent smuggling including smuggling of cellular phones.

Personal Law

2206. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2370 dated August 2, 1996 regarding Personal Law and State :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c). In the recent past, no Committee/ Commission has been set up by the Central Government to examine the feasibility of extending personal laws to Goa.

Import of Tea

2207. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to import tea;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of total quantity of tea with its rate at which it is proposed to be imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Caving in Accident in Govindpur

2208. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether three women and four coal workers were killed in October, 1996 due to caving in incident in the quarry No. 11 in Bermo Dhori region and in Govindpur in the Kolthara region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, in the early hours of 16.10.1996, a few outsiders entered unauthorisedly quarry No. 11 of Amlo opencast mine of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) for the purpose of digging out the white clay occurring above the coal seam in that colliery. In the digging process a part of the overhang collapsed resulting in the death of three women and injury to another four (two men and two women).

(c) With a view to preventing such unauthorised entries security measures around mines are being reinforced.

Sale of Coal

2209. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. which were engaged in the production of coal during the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 alongwith the quantum of coal produced by each subsidiary;

(b) the quantum of coal sold by each of the above subsidiaries during the above period; and

(c) the quantum of coal reserves lying with each of the above said subsidiaries at the end of the each of the above said years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). The details of coal production and despatches in respect of each subsidiary of Coal India Ltd. during the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under :-

(million tonnes)

Company-wise/ Subsidiary-wise	Production		Despatches	
	1994-95	1995-96	1994-95	1995-96
ECL	24.85	27.81	24.21	25.79
BCCL	28.75	27.81	28.34	26.49
CCL	31.21	30.76	31.11	30.74
NCL	32.50	35.20	32.91	35.08
WCL	27.24	29.01	27.24	30.35
SECL	50.00	53.17	47.82	52.28
MCL	27.33	32.70	26.91	34.31
NEC	1.9	0.82	0.83	1.03
CIL	223.07	237.28	219.37	236.07

(c) Presumably the Hon'ble M.P. is referring to coal stocks and as such the quantum of saleable coal stocks